

THE KO OLINA TAX CREDIT WAS A BATTLE FOUGHT FOR TWO YEARS. MY APPEAL REMAINS PENDING BEFORE THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT ON WHETHER FORMER GOVERNOR BEN CAYETANO HAD PROPERLY VETOED THE BILL.

THIS YEAR, DUE TO THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE KO OLINA TAX CREDIT PASSED. HOWEVER, LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE, THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WAS ONE PART; THE OTHER PART WAS THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR LINDA LINGLE.

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO HONOR THE FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE KO OLINA TRAINING FUND. CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN WHERE IT IS DUE. AND CREDIT FOR THE KO OLINA TRAINING FALLS TO GOVERNOR LINGLE.

TRAINING WAS ALWAYS A DREAM COMPONENT OF THE TAX CREDIT. HOWEVER, I KNEW THAT BEFORE A TRAINING CENTER COULD BE BUILT, THE AQUARIUM AND THE MARINE SCIENCE CENTER WOULD COME FIRST. GOVERNOR LINGLE REALIZED THAT WE MAY HAVE THE ECONOMIC BOOST IN THE REGION BUT THE TRAINED WORK FORCE MAY NOT BE THERE.

SHE INFORMED THE DEVELOPERS OF HER CONCERN. IT WAS A CONCERTED AND JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR, HER STAFF, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE DEVELOPERS AND MY OFFICE THAT RESULTED WITH THIS TRAINING FUND. EITHER DEAN CHOY OR JOHN SOUZA IS DELIVERING THIS SPEECH FOR ME AND ONE OF THEM SHOULD BECAUSE THEY WERE THE LEAD FOR MY OFFICE.

IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN GREAT PLEASURE AND HONOR TO INTRODUCE THE GOVERNOR TODAY. THE GOVERNOR WHO FELT THE NEED TO INVEST IN THIS AREA AS I HAVE, THE GOVERNOR WHO SHARES MY DREAMS AND THE GOVERNOR WHO'S FORESIGHT CREATED THE KOOLINA TRAINING FUND.

I PRESENT YOU, GOVERNOR LINDA LINGLE.